Taking over the Management of DIL

1367. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether a representation was made by some MPs to the Defence Minister to take over the management of Dunlop India Limited in view of the essentiality of aerotyre production for Defence;

(b) if so, the response of Government to the same;

(c) whether Indian Air Force has also taken up the issue to resumption of production of aerotyres in Dunlop; and

(d) if so, Government's action plan on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Dunlop India Limited does not cater exclusively to the defence requirements. In fact, Aero tyres constitute a small part of the production of the company. However, since the question of availability of Aero tyres for the Indian Air Force was also' involved, discussions were held by the Defence Minister with Chief Minister of West Bengal and with some Members of Parliament belonging to West Bengal regarding resumption of production of Aero tyres in Dunlop India Ltd. Government is in constant touch with the State Government of West Bengal and have been given to understand that the management of M/S Dunlop India Limited have decided on reopening their production line. Government propose to place order for. Aero tyres with Dunlop India Ltd., when the company resumes production. In the meantime, the requirements of Air Force are being met by imports.